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# MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

*Public* DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No.

512

Press

~~Mis.~~

Dated

27-4-1870

Not to be folded or roughly handled

*27th April 1870.*

No. 179. Read the following letter from Surgeon W. R. CORNISH, F.R.C.S., Sanitary Commissioner for Madras, to the Chief Secretary to Government, Fort Saint George, dated Madras, 6th April 1870, No. 371.

With reference to the Order of Government noted in the margin, I have the honour to state that I have been in communication with the Board of Revenue on the subject of obtaining the mortuary and birth statistics of the Presidency, in the new form, for the 1st of July next.

G. O., No. 209, 19th Feb. 1870.  
Memorandum on the compilation of  
Statistical Tables in the Office of the  
Sanitary Commissioner for Madras.

2. I have also, with reference to paragraph 2 of the above Order, placed myself in communication with the Inspectors-General of the British and Indian Medical Departments, and, with reference to the statistical work to be performed in this office, my predecessor, Dr. Ranking, who received and considered the paper under reference, has placed on record the accompanying Memorandum.

3. I fully agree with Dr. Ranking in thinking that it would be a great pity to discontinue the *stational* statistics of disease. If the establishment of this office is to be reduced to the cost of the Bombay office, (where there is a Secretary to superintend the statistical work,) I see nothing for it, but to depend upon the information afforded by the Medical Department, British and Indian, as the statistics kept by these offices are regimental, rather than stational, there will be some difficulty in meeting the requirements of the Home Government if the work is not carried on as at present in this office.

4. I would, therefore, request that the reductions,\* already recommended in letter No. 140, dated 10th February 1870, may be accepted for the present. I am hardly yet in a position to say what labour the registration of deaths of the civil population and the daily record of cholera mortality may throw upon the office; but after a moderate experience of the working of the establishment, I shall be prepared to report fully on the subject.

\* One clerk.  
" person.

5. I may state that the Inspectors-General, British and Indian Medical Departments, are of opinion that they cannot furnish the Army Medical statistics in the stational forms hitherto adopted by the Sanitary Commissioner, without extra assistance.

*Memorandum upon the Compilation of Statistical Tables in the Office of the Sanitary Commissioner for Madras.*

At present the system of tabulation of vital statistics in my office is as follows:—

1st.—With regard to the *British Medical Department*.

*Weekly Returns.*—I receive weekly, direct from Deputy Inspectors-General of Circles, a copy of the weekly reports and returns furnished to the Inspector-General. These returns I tabulate (in form A.) as received, so as to preserve a continuous weekly record of the fluctuations of sickness and mortality in each Regiment and Battery in the Presidency. These weekly returns are again reduced to quarterly forms (B.), which constitute the data from which the annual tables for my annual Sanitary Report are framed.

*Monthly Returns.*—I receive from the same source monthly returns of sickness amongst women and children and troops marching, which are also tabulated as received, so as to form continuous records in forms C. and D.

*Annual Returns.*—At the close of each year, I am also furnished, direct from the Inspector-General's Office, with annual statements of sickness and mortality as affecting married and unmarried men, temperate and intemperate, and of invaliding.

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27th April 1870.

The forms for the weekly returns are furnished from this office, and together with the forms A., B., C., and D., for tabulation of the same in my office, are printed at the Government Press.

From the *Inspector-General of the Indian Medical Department.*

*Weekly Returns.*—The weekly returns of Native troops are transmitted through the Deputy Inspectors-General of Divisions, which are tabulated exactly in the same way as for European troops and in similar forms, first into quarterly and then into annual tables, for the Annual Sanitary Report. The weekly returns contain the following particulars:—sickness, mortality and invaliding amongst the Native troops; European officers attached to do.; women and children of European and Eurasian parentage; and deaths amongst the Native civil population residing within Regimental lines.

Both in the European and Native Army, the weekly returns are identical with those in use by the Medical and Sanitary Departments, having been framed in concert with them.

Tabulation of these returns goes on in each office, though the results are not exhibited in identical forms, and it is unquestionable that this entails an unnecessary expense upon the State.

It is indispensable that the Inspectors-General of the British and Indian Services should tabulate in their respective offices, and it has hitherto been considered equally necessary that the Sanitary Commissioner should be kept acquainted with the weekly fluctuations of sickness and mortality, and this was met by his adopting returns in the same form and being independent, in a measure, of those departments, so far as the head offices are concerned.

If it is imperative that the tabulation of vital statistics by one or other of the departments named must cease, the Sanitary Commissioner must manifestly be the one to suffer, and he must, instead of preparing statistics in his own office, look to the Medical Department for the statistical information required for his Annual Report. This will necessarily delay the submission of that report, for it will not be possible to begin its preparation till the statistical tables are rendered, and these the Inspector-General of the British Medical Service has officially stated he cannot render, till the middle of July of each year; equal delay will necessarily result in the Indian Medical Department.

If this course be adopted, the Sanitary Commissioner should be privileged to receive periodically, for perusal and return, the following Returns and Reports from each Department:—

BRITISH.—Quarterly Returns of Sick of Troops

Do. do. of Officers.

Do. do. of Women and Children.

Monthly Sanitary Reports of Regiments, Batteries, and Stations.

Copies of Annual Returns of all kinds furnished to the Director-General, British Medical Department, for submission to the Horse Guards.

INDIAN.—Quarterly Returns of Troops including sickness amongst Commissioned Officers, Women and Children, and Civil population within Regimental Lines.

Quarterly Sanitary Reports of Regiments and Stations.

Annual Returns for the Calendar year for Troops, Commissioned Officers, Women and Children, and Civil population within Regimental Lines.

But it is manifest that, under this arrangement, the Sanitary Commissioner will be far less conversant with the progress of sickness and mortality than under the present system. He will only know the state of health amongst the troops quarterly, and then it will be too late to take any action upon any indications of unusual or spreading sickness. His information will in fact be second-hand. It will be necessary, therefore, to relieve him from the responsibility of keeping the Government informed of the progress of disease amongst the troops, and especially with the occurrence and spread of cholera, (except in the Civil Department,) and this duty must devolve, and most legitimately so, upon the Medical Departments.

The duty of the Sanitary Commissioner will, in fact, as regards troops, be limited to a commentary, at the close of each year, upon the health of the troops as illustrated by the tabular statements furnished by the Medical Departments, supplemented by information derived from the Monthly and Quarterly Sanitary Reports submitted for his perusal.

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27th April 1870.

ANNUAL SANITARY REPORTS FOR CANTONMENTS AND STATIONS.—But in addition to the above Returns in the Military Department, the Sanitary Commissioner now receives Annual Sanitary Reports from Cantonment Committees and Officers Commanding stations in a form supplied from his office, and printed at the Government Press, (orders are solicited upon the retention or otherwise of these reports). If carefully filled in, and replies to the several questions carefully given, they form valuable records of the progress made in works and measures of sanitary importance. They give, in fact, the information ordered to be recorded by the Secretary of State in his Despatch, No. 7, dated 16th September 1868.

CIVIL DEPARTMENT.

In the Civil Department the Sanitary Commissioner now receives direct the following Periodical Returns:—

|                                                                      |                |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------|
| Sickness and Mortality amongst Prisoners in Jails.....               | Monthly.       |
| District Mortuary Returns.....                                       | Do.            |
| Register of Deaths in Cantonments.....                               | Weekly.        |
| Deaths in Public Institutions.....                                   | As they occur. |
| Cholera Deaths throughout the Presidency reported by the Police..... | Daily.         |
| Sanitary Reports from Municipalities.....                            | Annually.      |

*Jail Returns.*—These are tabulated regularly into quarterly and annual returns, and form the basis of the annual tables for the Annual Sanitary Report.

• Received from Collectors of Districts. *District Mortuary Returns\*.*—These are also compiled quarterly into tables published in the proceedings of my office.

*Deaths in Cantonments.*—These will be tabulated for the current year into an annual table for the Annual Report.

*Deaths in Public Institutions.*—Will be similarly tabulated.

*Cholera Deaths in the Provinces.*—These have been received from the commencement of the present year, and a daily return is furnished to the Inspectors-General of the British and Indian Medical Departments, as ruled by Government.

At a conference with the Hon. Mr. Ellis and Mr. Minchin, it was proposed that, in view to meet the imperative orders of the Government of India for retrenchment, the Sanitary Commissioner should, in future, obtain the perusal of the Medical and Sanitary Returns furnished to the British and Indian Medical Departments respectively, and that he should look to them for the tables necessary to the preparation of his Annual Sanitary Report, and that statistical tabulation in his office should be restricted to deaths amongst the Civil population in the provinces, to deaths in Military Cantonments and public institutions, and to cholera deaths reported by the police.

Under this modification of duties, in the Statistical Department, one of the statistical clerks † Letter No. 140, 10th Feb. 1870. may be dispensed with; which, with the reduction already recommended‡ of one clerk and record-keeper and one peon, will make the total monthly reductions Rupees 92, bringing the cost of the Office Establishment to Rupees 289.

This meets the orders of the Government of India which require that it shall be reduced to “something nearer the Bombay standard.”

The Office Establishment of the Sanitary Commissioner with that Government costs Rupees 238. The reduced cost of the office of the Sanitary Commissioner for Madras will be Rupees 289. But in adopting the modification of the duties of the Sanitary Commissioner to the extent indicated, the scope of his utility will be very much narrowed, and I do not think that the Government of India, in ordering the reduction of his Office Establishment, contemplated that it could only be done at so grave a sacrifice of his duties and responsibilities.

It is a question then for the Government, whether they shall be so sacrificed, for so small a saving to the State as that represented by Rupees 35 per mensem, or Rupees 420 per annum.

It must also be remembered that the statistical information rendered by the Sanitary Commissioner in the Military Department has been arranged upon the *stational* system. The annual

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27th April 1870.*

tables required at the hands of the Inspectors-General of the two Services must, therefore, be arranged to meet this; returns of sickness and mortality must not, therefore, be massed into Divisions or Circles; but must be rendered for *each station* and for each arm of the service, and for individual batteries or regiments, and *not* include sickness and mortality on line of march or at sea in course of relief, or amongst parties of invalids on the move. This must form a separate return under the head of "Troops Marching."

On full consideration of the question, I do not think that the saving of Rupees 35 per month, the pay of the second statistical clerk in my office, will compensate for the restriction placed upon the scope of the Sanitary Commissioner's duties, and the extra trouble thrown upon the Medical Department.

It is essential, as in accordance with the order of the Secretary of State, that weekly returns for *stations* be tabulated, excluding all sickness and mortality outside such stations, as on the line of march, on boardship, &c., and such tables are not at present compiled in the office of the Inspector-General of the Indian Medical Department. All weekly returns are retained in the office of the Deputy Inspector-General till the close of the quarter, when they are amalgamated into a quarterly return which includes all weekly returns, whether from stations or of troops on the move. If, therefore, the Sanitary Commissioner is to look to the Medical Department for his statistical tables, and if he is to act up to the instructions of the Secretary of State, separate returns of sickness and mortality must be prepared for each station and for troops upon the line of march or at sea. The printed forms in use in the Sanitary Commissioner's office might be adopted, and the tabulation must be for the *calendar* not for the *official* year.

If the compilation of these Stational Returns for every Regiment and Battery in the Service entails any addition to the Office Establishment of the Inspectors-General of the British and Indian Medical Services, then, I respectfully submit that it will be better to allow the Sanitary Commissioner to retain the services of the second statistical clerk, and to compile statistics in his office as hitherto.

26th February 1870.

(Signed) J. L. RANKING,  
Sanitary Commissioner.

No. 180.

ORDER THEREON, 27th April 1870, No. 512.

His Excellency the Governor in Council will, before directing any further reduction in the office of the Sanitary Commissioner than that approved in the G. O., dated 19th February last, await the further report promised by Dr. Cornish in paragraph 4 of the letter above recorded.

(True Extract.)

Chief Secretary.

To the Sanitary Commissioner.

No. 371

OFFICE OF SANITARY COMMISSIONER,

Madras, 6<sup>th</sup> April

1870

From

To

The Sanitary Commissioner for Madras,  
The Chief Secretary to Government,  
Public Department,  
Fort Saint George.

SIR,

With reference to the Order of Government noted in the margin, I have the honor to state, that I have been in communication with the Board of Revenue on the subject of obtaining the mortuary and birth statistics of the Presidency, in the new form, for the first of July next.

Enclosure. 1  
Memorandum on the compilation of statistical tables in the Office of the Sanitary Commissioner for Madras.

I have also, with reference to para 2 of the above order, placed myself in communication with the Inspector General of the British and Indian Medical Departments, and, with reference to the statistical work to be performed in this Office, my predecessor, Dr. Rankin, who perused and considered the paper under reference, has placed on record the accompanying Memorandum.

3. I fully agree with Dr. Rankin in thinking that it would be a great pity to discontinue the Statistical Statistics of disease. If the re-establishment of this Office is to be reduced to the cost of the Bombay Office (where there is a Secretary to superintend the statistical work), I see nothing for it, but to deprive upon the information afforded by the Medical Department, British and Indian, as the statistics kept by these offices are regional, rather than statistical, there will be some difficulty in

Govt. of 1870 Madras.

PUBLIC.

To

THE SANITARY COMMISSIONER.

Dated April, 27th.

Recd.

Encl.

G. O., 27th April 1870, No. 512.

APRIL.

Nos. 179-180.

Awaiting a further report from Dr. Cornish before making any more reductions his Office Establishment than those approved in G. O. of the 19th February last.

meeting the requirements of the Home Government if the work is not carried on as at present in this Office.

4. I would therefore request that the productions<sup>\*</sup> already recommended, in letter No 1140 dated 10<sup>th</sup> February 1870, may be accepted for the present. I am hardly yet in a position to say what labor the registration of deaths of the Civil population and the daily record of cholera mortality may throw upon the Office; but after a moderate experience of the working of the establishment, I shall be prepared to report fully on the subject.

\* 1 clerk  
1 person

5. I may state that the Inspectors General, British and Indian Medical Departments, are of opinion that they cannot furnish the Army medical statistics in the statistical forms hitherto adopted by the Sanitary Commissioner, without extra assistance.

I have the honor to be

Sir

Your most obedient servant

W. Forriest J. R. C. S.

Sanitary Commissioner

for Bombay.

No boundary line - 1875

J. D. S.

10512 7/17 1875  
The Secretary of the Board of Commissioners for the Public Land Office, Washington, D.C.  
will, before making any further reduction in the office of the Secretary, send the further work forwarded by the Secretary in form to the  
with above marked. 1875

Public Land

From (1)

The Secretary of the Board of Commissioners for the Public Land Office, Washington, D.C.

To the Chief Secretary to the Public Land Office, Washington, D.C.

For the Public Land Office, Washington, D.C.

- 10512 7/17

Dated 6th

Dec 13 1875

No 371

Enc. 15

No 537

States that he has been

in communication with the Board of Commissioners on the subject of the collection of material

and is now in uniform system; and is now on the production

of the material to the Board of Commissioners on the Public Land Office.

With an order

226/4

179.180

G.O. of 1870 Madras.

Kabbe

The Sanitary Commission

Date April 27.

Read.

End.

G. O. 27 April 1870, No. 512

Nos. 179. 180.

By a further report from  
the Council before making any  
more reductions in his office  
to be less than those  
approved in G.O. of the 19<sup>th</sup>  
January last.